

DOCKET NO. 8631-009-21 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Gary B. CARMAN, et al.

ART UNIT:

SERIAL NO.: New Application

EXAMINER:

FILING DATE: Herewith

FOR: DYNAMIC O_x BIOLOGICAL BURDEN REDUCTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to consideration of the above-identified application on its merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Prior to "Field of the Invention", please insert: -- This application is a Continuation of application Serial No. 09/217,581, filed December 22, 1998 (Allowed) which claims priority to provisional application Serial No. 60/068,668, filed December 23, 1997 (abandoned), the entirety of each of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-46 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claim 47 as follows:

--47. (NEW) A method for biological burden reduction, comprising a step of applying a continuous stream of O_x gas to a material in a sealed biological burden reduction chamber, wherein a temperature in said biological burden reduction chamber is maintained at about 45°C

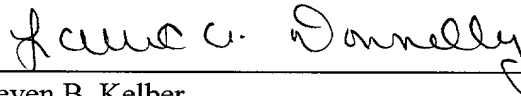
to 60°C throughout said biological burden reduction, wherein said continuous stream of O_x gas is drawn into, through and out of said biological burden reduction chamber simultaneously throughout said biological burden reduction, and wherein said O_x gas comprises between about 3 and 6% O₃ and about 1 and 10% CO₂--

REMARKS

Claim 47 is pending. Early consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claim are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER MARBURY RUDNICK & WOLFE LLP



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LETTER TO OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN

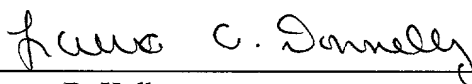
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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SIR:

It is requested that the enclosed **THREE** (3) sheets of Formal Drawings comprising Figures **1 through 3** be entered to replace the Informal Drawings originally filed with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER MARBURY RUDNICK & WOLFE LLP



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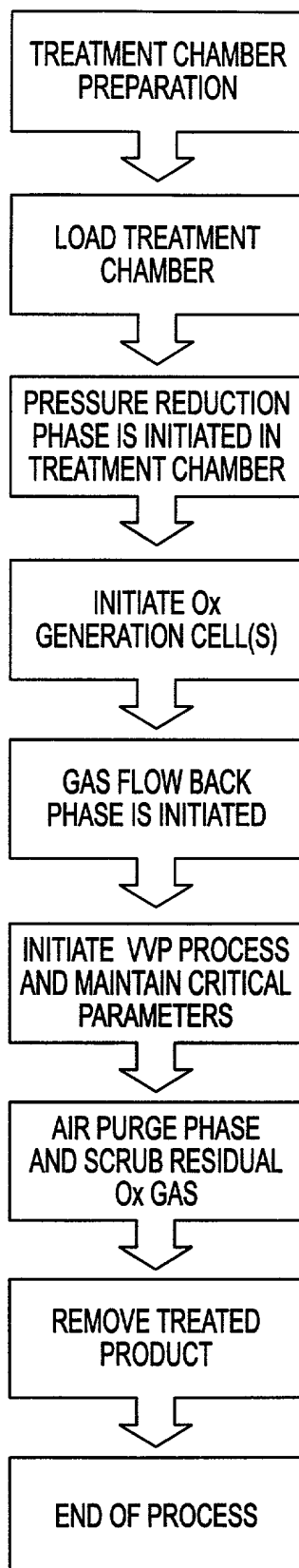


FIG. 1

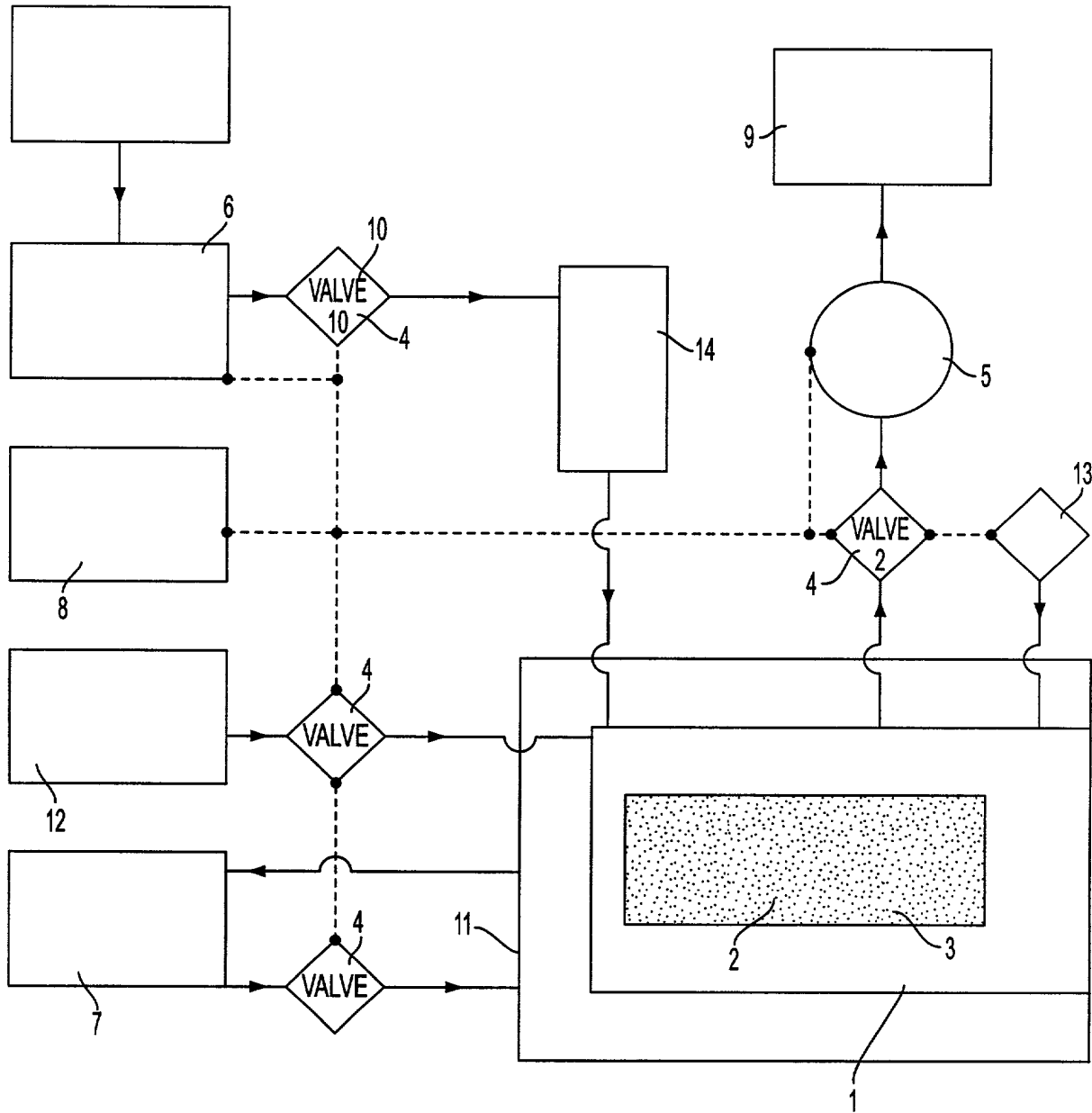


FIG. 2

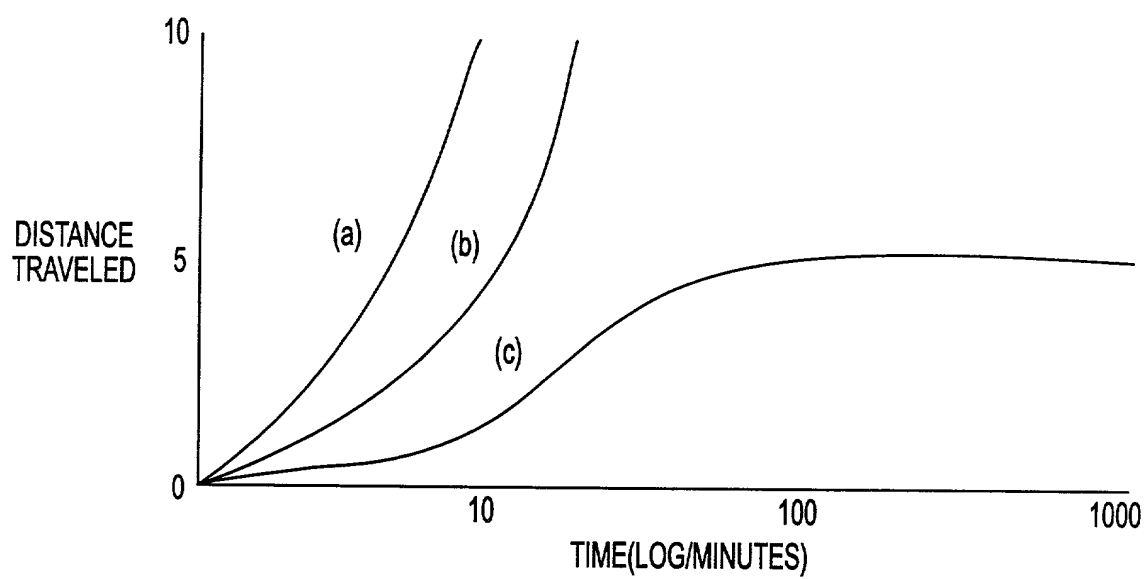


FIG. 3